<u>Listing of Claims:</u>

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Previously presented) A system, comprising:

a first speech recognition engine;

a second speech recognition engine; and

evaluation logic coupled to the first and second speech recognition engines, the evaluation logic evaluates the first and second speech recognition engines based on evaluation signals from a user and, based in part on the evaluation, selects one of said speech recognition engines to process additional speech signals from the user;

wherein the first speech recognition engine permits a plurality of ports to be used on behalf of a plurality of users and the system further comprises a port monitor coupled to the first speech recognition engine and to the evaluation logic, wherein the port monitor determines a number of currently available ports and, if the number of currently available ports exceeds a threshold, causes the first speech recognition engine to be selected and used.

2.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 further comprising a switch coupled to the first and second speech recognition engines and the evaluation logic, wherein, based on the evaluation, the evaluation logic causes the switch to release a connection to the speech recognition engine that was not selected.

3.   (Original) The system of claim 1 further comprising a communications mechanism and, based on the evaluation, the evaluation logic selects the communications mechanism that is not the first or second speech recognition engines.

4.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein if the number of currently available ports does not exceed the threshold, the evaluation logic compares outputs from the first and second speech recognition engines and selects the second speech recognition engine if the outputs are identical.

5.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein if the number of currently available ports does not exceed the threshold, the evaluation logic determines a response time for each of the first and second speech recognition engines and selects the second speech recognition engine if the response time of the second speech recognition engine is equal to or shorter than the response time of the first speech recognition engine.

6.   (Previously presented) The system of claim 1 wherein if the number of currently available ports does not exceed the threshold, the evaluation logic receives a first confidence score from the first speech recognition engine and a second confidence score from the second speech recognition engine and selects the second speech recognition engine if the confidence score of the second speech recognition engine is equal to or higher than a threshold.

7.-8.   (Cancelled).

9.   (Previously presented) A system, comprising:
        first means for recognizing speech;
        second means for recognizing speech;
        means for evaluating a parameter associated with the first and second
              means for recognizing speech based on evaluation voice input from
              a user during a session and, based on the evaluation, for selecting
              one of said first and second means for recognizing speech; and

means for monitoring a number of available ports associated with the first
means for recognizing speech and for selecting the first means for
recognizing speech if the number of available ports exceeds a
threshold.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9 further comprising means for releasing
the first or second means for recognizing speech that is not selected.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the means for evaluating a
parameter comprises means for assessing the relative accuracy of the first and
second means for recognizing speech.

12. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the means for evaluating a
parameter comprises means for assessing the relative performance of the first
and second means for recognizing speech.

13. (Original) The system of claim 9 wherein the first and second means for
recognizing speech comprise a means for determining a confidence score
associated with the voice input.

14. (Cancelled).

15. (Previously presented) A method, comprising:
evaluating an evaluation set of utterances from a user during a session;
based on evaluating the evaluation set of utterances, selecting between a
first speech recognition engine and a second speech recognition
engine for the remainder of the session; and

automatically selecting the first speech recognition engine if a number of available ports associated with the first speech recognition engine exceeds a predetermined value.

16.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein evaluating the evaluation set of utterances comprises determining a relative accuracy of the first and second speech recognition engines if the number of available ports associated with the first speech recognition engine falls below a predetermined value.

17.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein evaluating the evaluation set of utterances comprises determining a relative performance of the first and second speech recognition engines if the number of available ports associated with the first speech recognition engine falls below a predetermined value.

18.   (Previously presented) The method of claim 15 wherein evaluating the evaluation set of utterances comprises comparing a first confidence score generated by the first speech recognition engine with a second confidence score generated by the second speech recognition engine if the number of available ports associated with the first speech recognition engine falls below a predetermined value.

19.-20. (Cancelled).

21.   (Previously presented) A storage medium containing code that can be loaded into a computer and executed by a processor in the computer, the code causing the computer to:

evaluate an evaluation set of utterances from a user;

based on the evaluation of the evaluation set of utterances, select between a first speech recognition engine and a second speech recognition engine; and

determine a number of available ports associated with the first speech recognition engine and to automatically select the first speech recognition engine if the number of available ports is above a threshold.

22.   (Previously presented) The storage medium of claim 21 wherein the code causes the processor to evaluate the evaluation set of utterances, if the number of available ports is below the threshold, by performing an action selected from the group consisting of comparing a relative accuracy of the first and second speech recognition engines, comparing the a relative performance of the first and second speech recognition engines, and comparing a confidence score generated by the first and second speech recognition engines, and a combination thereof.

23.-24. (Cancelled).